

PUBLIC ART PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

Please read through the instructions and guidelines before you fill out this application. You may only submit proposals for locations with confirmed eligibility. It is important that you answer each section thoroughly; the Public Art Advisory Panel and Minneapolis Arts Commission review complete applications and evaluate how your proposal meets the City's Public Art Goals (found in the instructions).

Title of Project: East Harriet Storm Drain Mural

Eligible Organization: East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association

Lead Contact Person's Information:

Name: Helen Schnoes **Email address:** helenaschnoes@gmail.com

Phone: 612-741-1591

Artist(s): Thomasina Topbear

A. Short Description of Project:

This project will make the first storm drain mural in Minneapolis. It is a celebration of all that our waters offer—connection to the natural world and spaces to play and behold beauty.

East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association (EHFNA) in Minneapolis ran a competitive artist Request for Qualifications process fall 2021, and selected Thomasina Topbear as the artist to partner on an initiative to raise awareness about water quality and build community connections. A community taskforce partnered with Barton Elementary to promote community engagement that helped inform the design, principally through a community survey.

EHFNA was inspired by others in the metro who have successfully executed community-based storm drain murals in recent years, including Friends of the Mississippi River and Minnesota Water Stewards. East Harriet resident Helen Schnoes initiated the project as part of completing her capstone to become a Minnesota Water Steward volunteer. EHFNA already has funds dedicated for mural maintenance. Planning is taking place for a community celebration after the mural is complete and to align with the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

B. Location:

What is (are) the location(s) of your project? If it does not have an address, include information on the adjacent address(es), or street intersections.

We have selected West 43rd St. and Colfax Ave. S. as our desired location. There are 4 storm drains at this intersection (see image) and we have not finalized which to use; three are highlighted in our attachments as possible locations.

Why was this (these) individual location(s)/ utility boxes chosen?

We have built a partnership with Barton Elementary and would like to use an intersection adjacent to the school to support student engagement. The intersection also has strong pedestrian traffic, as it's up the hill from a small commercial node and a common place residents pass through to walk to Lake Harriet and the Rose Gardens. We thought as such the mural would have high-visibility and be able to be appreciated by both residents and the school community.

C. Artist Selection:

Was there an open call to the public for artists? If not, please explain why.

Yes, we ran a Request for Qualifications October – November 2021, promoting through a variety of outlets and through personal networks, including East Harriet newsletter and social media, Forecast public art, Walker Art Center, Pollen, and City of Minneapolis Public Art. An online application was used to collect artist information and work samples.

How was/were the artist/artists selected for your project?

To design the artist Request for Qualifications, application form, and criteria, first we talked with organizations who have led a storm drain mural process in the past, including Friends of the Mississippi and the Rice Creek Watershed District. Rice Creek introduced us to both North Suburban Center for the Arts (Executive Director) and an artist they had worked with before (Geno Okok). Geno provided his own recommendations for recruiting and contracting with an artist, and referred us to Forecast Public Arts. Jen Krava with Forecast offered pro bono consulting to that helped us refine and finalize our recruitment outreach plan and the application + outreach language.

Seven applications were received from artists. The East Harriet Storm Drain Mural Taskforce evaluated the applications following the close of the recruitment period. Each member completed their own individual evaluation, using a criteria matrix established and advertised with the Request for Qualifications. The application forms included the following elements:

- *Statement of Interest in the project*
- *Previous experience with a similar project*
- *Resume/credentials*
- *Previous work examples (up to 5)*
- *Two references*
- *Self-identification for equity-based selection (see criteria below)*

After individual scoring, the Taskforce got together to review each applicant’s form and previous work, and discussed how they scored based upon the criteria. Together a finalist was selected (each Taskforce member independently scored and selected as the top artist the one we ended up contracting—Thomasina Topbear).

What criteria did you use for this selection?

Selection of the artist was based on relevant experience, artistic ability, and mission-alignment. Artists living and/or working in the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood were given special consideration, including those who are renters or seniors (to align with our new equity engagement plan for the City). Additional priority was given to artists who identify as Black, Indigenous, Latinx, or other artist of color.

Category	Detail guide for awarding points	Points
Experience	The applicant has experience required to successfully execute community engagement, youth activities, and design/implement storm drain mural. References provided are strong.	10
Artistic Ability	The applicant demonstrates a clear ability to execute in the medium of this project (public art, medium-scale concrete/asphalt painting). The candidate has a visual style that will make the storm drain mural eye-catching and engaging, and translates well to the “canvas” of the street/drain surface.	15
Mission Aligned	The applicant has interest, passion, and or/experience in using art to advance public awareness of important issues, possibly including environment, nature, water, and/or stories of place.	10
Equity Consideration	The applicant helps EHFNA implement its equitable engagement plan (renter, senior in neighborhood) or identifies as Black, Indigenous, Latinx, or other artist of color.	10
Neighborhood Link	The applicant lives in or has a meaningful connection to EHFNA.	5
Total		50

Who was the selection panel for the project?

The selection panel included members of the project Taskforce. The group grew out of the EHFNA’s Green Spaces & Places Committee, and grew following promotion of the opportunity for additional community volunteers to join via the EHFNA newsletter. Overall, there were three members, as one member moved away prior to artist evaluation: Brian Nalezny, EHFNA Board Member, GSPC member; Helen Schnoes, project lead, GSPC member; Jaime Gearhart, community volunteer.

D. Design Development:

(NOTE: Early design review is discouraged, be aware the Panel or Commission may return an application requesting that more information be provided and brought back, which would result in postponing final review for a month or more. Early design review applications are heavily weighted by the quality of the design development, artist selection, and community involvement.)

What are the themes and ideas represented in the design(s)?

The following themes and ideas represented in the design are quotes taken from the input we received from members of the Barton Elementary and East Harriet community. We received 17 responses and asked these questions:

1. *Why is clean water important to you?*
2. *Why do you love Lake Harriet or Minnehaha Creek?*
3. *What do you see when you think about clean water?*

This is a summary of some of the responses that are reflected in the design:

- *“Water connects everything”*
 - *“All living things need water- humans are 60% water!”*
 - *“What happens to the water happens to the people”. Mni Wiconi*
 - *“They anchor our lives.” (Lake Harriet & Minnehaha Creek)*
 - *“Basic human right, animal habitat”*
- *“Nature in the city”*
 - *“The turtles, the birds, the frozen ice, the way it provides calm, nurturing, and care”*
 - *“Public, outdoor space is one of the few remaining equalizers; it allows us to exist together as a community without money or status.”*
 - *“They are beautiful, create outdoor open spaces to enjoy and listen to water moving, and bring people outside!”*
- *“Great places to be outside”*
 - *“I enjoy highwater canoe or kayak creek-paddling”*
 - *“I love swimming in Lake Harriet”*
 - *“We love the lake Harriet beaches”*
 - *“We grew up here! We swam in Lake Harriet and tubed down the creek. It is the fresh waterways that make Mpls special”*
- *“Sparkling sunlight and blue”*
 - *“Light sparkling on the water. Sunsets fractured in waves.”*
 - *“Water fowl and fish.”*
 - *“Blue and green colors, life, growth”*

How do these themes relate to the site, design of adjacent sites, and the community?

For our neighborhood, Lake Harriet is literally lifted up in the title. The storm drains at our selected and approved intersection literally take stormwater runoff and carry it to the lake. Since the goal of our project is to raise awareness about clean water and help get more storm drains adopted so neighbors can help keep them clean, this connection is all the more important. As such, we have the iconic Lake Harriet Bandshell reflected in the design, so students at Barton and area residents get that this is a piece that is meant to reflect and speak to their immediate

surroundings. We heard that we're deeply connected to water, and the person swimming speaks to that human-nature connection as well as reflects the recreation that so many community members enjoy. The fish, turtles, and plant life included reflect the natural habitat and reality that even in our City we share our environment with other living things who need a healthy lake, too. The hearts on the turtles and the vibrant sunbeams evoke the love and beauty that so many residents feel and help show a celebratory aspect to the mural, too – this project is also about community beautification and placemaking, in addition to raising awareness.

Was the community involved in developing the design? What was the process for developing the design(s)?
Ideas for the design came through a survey developed and distributed to the East Harriet and Barton communities around Earth Day, 2022. The project Taskforce reviewed a draft design that Thomasina created after reviewing the survey feedback, and provided feedback that she incorporated into the final design.

If the process involves youth working with the artist(s) to develop the design, how have they been trained or educated?

Plans for youth engagement in design were impacted by the Minneapolis Public Schools teachers strike. We will work with Barton for youth education connections as part of celebrating the mural's completion at the start of the next school year, fall 2022. We are already in conversation with Barton about STEM and art class connections.

E. Connection between designs and location:

(Note: if you are submitting an early design review for this application prior to having a complete design, please submit information on how you plan to do the below.)

How does the design connect with the location and surroundings?

With Lake Harriet in its name, the EHFNA has a special connection to this iconic community and environmental asset. Storm drains in this area drain into the lake, before entering Minnehaha Creek. The mural aims to draw attention to where the water goes once it enters the storm drain. See answers above.

If it is near existing works of public art (including murals), how is the design sensitive to those works of art, both in content and aesthetics?

No issues that we are aware of.

F. Community Involvement:

What was the process for notifying and engaging the community in planning the project, creating the design, and, if appropriate, installing the artwork?

The project idea began in spring 2021 in the EHFNA Green Spaces & Places Committee. Helen Schnoes joined the group and asked if they would want to partner on her Minnesota Water Steward capstone project. Together they landed on the idea of a storm drain mural. Helen connected with Lane Christianson, the City's Adopt-a-Drain & Storm Drain Stenciling Programs Manager in Public Works. He was supportive of the idea and shared this would be the first such mural in Minneapolis.

A Taskforce was created through recruitment via the EHFNA newsletter. Periodic updates were provided to the full EHFNA board, including approval of funding to support the initiative, leveraging initial funding from Hennepin County through its sponsorship of the Minnesota Water Steward capstone project led by Helen Schnoes. The project was announced to the community again via a newsletter with the Request for Qualifications to find an artist, and then the announcement of the selected artist in early 2022.

An informational flyer was hand delivered to all homes immediately adjacent to the intersection where the storm drain mural is planned, and Taskforce members spoke with residents as available. Contact information was included in the information left at each home.

A partnership was formed with Barton Elementary in late 2021, and the corner adjacent to the school was selected to support student engagement with the artwork. Some plans for additional student engagement in design were disrupted by the Minneapolis Public Schools strike; however, a community survey was launched with Earth Week 2022 (April 18 – April 24) and flyers and an email was sent to all Barton families. Survey participants, there were 17, were able to leave their email to stay updated about the project.

More homeowner/resident engagement is planned as we get closer to painting. A community celebration is planned for fall 2022 following the mural's completion.

G. Materials

(Note: Only latex paint is allowed for paint the pavement and utility boxes. If you would like to propose to use a different material(s), it must be approved by the City beforehand.)

What materials will be you using?

Street paint (OK using the latex paint approved by the city)

Include information about why these materials were selected, safety precautions that will be taken and method of safely disposing of materials (when fabricated on site).

Thomasina has experience painting a storm drain mural before, including summer 2021 in St. Paul, and that experience will inform both the materials and safety precautions. We will work closely with the city and Barton

communities to ensure safety during painting and community celebrations, including cones or a permit to close the street as needed during painting. Paints and brushes used will be disposed of following best practices.

H. Fabricators and Vendors:

(Note: Heat guns are NOT allowed to be used on Utility Boxes. Utility Boxes also need to be thoroughly cleaned, sanded, and prepared before wrapping/ painting. For Custom Projects-It is strongly recommended that specifications for products and materials are attached to your proposal.)

Include installation specifications and plans, such as: site plan elevations, attachment methods for objects, structure specifications, excavation plan, or engineer drawings.

Who are the project fabricators/ vendors?

What experience does the fabricator/ vendor have in creating artworks using the specified materials?

Include information on who will be painting/ working with the artist (e.g., youth—include their ages, neighborhood residents, parental consent, etc.).

How are these participants from the community being identified and selected?

Thomasina will lead the painting of the mural. She may have an assistant to support her if needed. No one else will be immediately part of the painting itself. Thomasina has completed paint the street projects before, including a storm drain mural in St. Paul and a crosswalk in the St Anthony Park area.

I. Timeline:

What is your timeline?

- *Spring 2021: project begins*
- *June 2021: Taskforce recruitment*
- *September 2021: EHFNA approves funds to support project*
- *October 2021: Request for Qualifications launched to find artist*
- *November 2021: Partnership with Barton Elementary formed*
- *December 2021: Artist selected + project kickoff*
- *February 2022: Location determined eligible by City of Minneapolis*
- *March 2022: Homeowner outreach, announcement of artist, engagement planning*
- *April 2022: Community engagement, design, application submitted*
- *May 2022 – July 2022: City approval process*
- *July 2022 – August 2022: Mural installation (TBD weather, timing to finalize with project team, City)*
- *September 2022: Community celebration + additional publicity*

Include milestones for artist selection, design, fabrication, community engagement, publicity, approvals, installation, and celebration.

J. Maintenance:

(If you have a maintenance plan, please attach it. The City does not fund ongoing maintenance or removal for such projects. Maintenance plans are required. Lack of maintenance will result in permit termination.)

What is needed for the maintenance of this project?

As a storm drain mural, we know the project will not last forever. We do have \$500 reserved to buy additional paint and materials and conduct "touch ups" following spring street sweeping the following spring. As the first such mural in Minneapolis, we will learn from this experience how well the mural holds up after winter. We have learned from others that a clear coat will also help with longevity of the mural on the pavement and will employ this tactic.

What are your plans for ongoing maintenance and final removal?

Members of the Taskforce will lead on touch-ups, using guidance provided by Thomasina as the artist. We are not planning for formal removal, instead we recognize that over time the mural will fade away more than touch ups will be able to maintain. The EHFNA contract with Thomasina does say "Art is subject for removal after one year for any purpose deemed necessary and without notice by the City of Minneapolis or EHFNA."

Who have you consulted in estimating these needs (i.e. art conservator, fabricator, artist)?

We have consulted with organizations that have led these projects before, including Friends of the Mississippi River, and as our hired artist Thomasina has experience with longevity of paint the pavement projects.

Who will be conducting maintenance and graffiti removal?

Helen Schnoes

How often do you estimate that maintenance will need to occur?

We estimate once a year, after spring street sweeping.

How quickly can you respond to requests for graffiti removal?

As a neighborhood-based project, we are close to the project site and able to be responsive. Since the neighborhood association is the lead sponsor, we all have a vested interest in the mural looking good and being an asset to the community.

K. Copyright:

(Note: If you do not have a copyright agreement with the artist, an example is available on the website.)

What is your copyright agreement with the artist? (You may also submit this as an attachment)

The following bullets are drawn from the contract between EHFNA and Thomasina:

- *Finished pieces will be property of EHFNA however the intellectual property of the art design remains with the artist*
- *EHFNA reserves the right to reproduce finished work for promotion and archival purposes in both printed and electronic form. EHFNA will not sell reproductions of the work without written consent of the artist; artist retains all other rights'*
- *EHFNA or the project cannot financially benefit from the art without prior consent from the artist but may reproduce the art for educational and promotional materials*

L. Installation and Traffic Management (if needed for installation):

What are your plans for managing vehicles, traffic, and lane use during installation of the artwork?

We will work closely with the City to obtain any required permits and to follow best practices during the painting of the pavement near the storm drain. This will likely happen in one day, with possible touch-ups the day after. We anticipate this will include closing down at least a lane of traffic for painting and maintaining cones around the mural to support drying (although we know street paint dries fast). Already the intersection is a 4-way stop so fast traffic is less of a concern. Because painting will occur during the summer, we know there will be less activity related to the adjacent school building than during the academic year.

If the project requires vehicles on City property and/or excavation, what are you plans for preventing damage to the site and restoring the site to its original condition?

We do not anticipate any vehicles on City property (aside from the street!) or excavation.

M. Public Education:

How will/ has the public be informed about the project?

Multiple announcements about the project have been included in the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association newsletter, and the March 2022 artist announcement was picked up by Southwest Voices. Multiple updates have been provided at EHFNA meetings, flyers have been hand delivered to adjacent homes, and additional flyers were placed around the community and distributed to families via Barton Elementary. Additional outreach will continue as we get closer to painting and community celebration this summer and fall.

Will there be a plaque or information about the artwork near the site?

We are not planning for a plaque or information about the artwork near the site.

Is there information on your website?

There has been periodically updated information about the project on the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association website. We will work with EHFNA and Barton for a more permanent post about the project upon completion.

N. Project Budget:

(Note: Although the City does not fund projects, the City does require a budget submittal as a demonstration that the applicant has the capacity to implement the project, has raised the necessary funds, and has budgeted for artist fees, insurance, and ongoing maintenance.)

Please provide us with a copy of your project budget (as an attachment), or use the space below:

Please see attachment.

Include the following information and include in-kind contributions for key required items.

Artist Fees: _____

Materials/Fabrication: _____

Installation: _____

Liability Insurance: _____

Maintenance: _____

Other: _____

O. Attachments:

Do not forget to include the other required forms and attachments with your application and combine them in **one PDF document**.

- Images of the final design (*Early Design Review applications should submit examples of the artists past work if the design is still being developed*)
- Context photo(s) of the site and the design in context to the space
- Resumes of participating artists
- Letter of support from additional organization(s) involved.
 - *Letters of support are included relating to the overall storm drain mural project, as previously shared with Helen's Minnesota Water Steward sponsor at Hennepin County, Christina Schmitt. They are included here to support this stage as well. A letter of support is*

not included from Barton Elementary due to sensitivity surrounding the demands facing schools now; coordination is unfolding and if a letter is necessary for the public art review we can obtain one.

- For applicants with previous permits: Photos documenting current condition of the artwork(s)
 - N/A
- VARA Waiver signed by each artist
 - *Will be provided*
- ~~Structural review and/or signed engineering drawings (if needed)~~
- Copy of artist copyright agreement for this project (if not provided above-section K)
 - *See above*
- Budget (if not provided above – section N)

P. Information Agreement

I/We understand that **the materials we submit are public information under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act** and may be shared by the City of Minneapolis with members of the public or the media for informational purposes or as otherwise required by the Data Practices Act. Accordingly, I/we hereby grant a non-exclusive license to the City of Minneapolis to make and distribute a limited number of copies of the submitted materials for the purposes of information and/or evaluation of the Project, or as required by the Data Practices Act.

I/We understand that if approved, the City of Minneapolis gives the applicant/ permit-holder permission to add art to the specified location until such a time, where that space is needed by the City of Minneapolis for public purposes. The length of a permit will be at the full discretion of Public Works. **Permits are revocable at any time in the interest of public safety, lack of maintenance, scheduled infrastructure upgrades or construction.** I/We understand that the City of Minneapolis is not required to provide the permit holder advance notice of the permit's termination (the City will try to notify applicants whenever possible).

Signature of Applicant: Helen Schnoes

Date: April 27, 2022

Name Printed: Helen Schnoes

4298 Colfax Ave S
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Street View - May 2019

Location Option 2

Location Option 3

Google

Thomasina R. TopBear

“TopBear is a self taught artist, muralist, published illustrator and organizer from the Oglala Lakota & Santee Dakota Nations. She is a board member of the international all female paint crew Few & Far Women and co-founded City Mischief Murals, an all BIPOC artist collective centered on healing through art. Specializing in large-scale murals her work can be seen on the sides of buildings throughout the country. Thomasina has organized a number of events focusing on empowering and creating safe spaces for youth and fellow artists to practice their crafts. She draws influences from her Oceti Sakowin culture while using art to express thoughts on community, social justice, spirituality and togetherness.”



3419 Colfax Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55412
(612) 380-1623
citymischiefmurals@gmail.com

Murals, Projects & Community Engagement

Saint Paul College Mural Project, Artist, 2022

- Facilitated 2 community engagement sessions with SPC Students & Faculty, along with creating a feedback questionnaire.
- Create two designs using feedback from the community engagement sessions for the college to vote on.
- Instructed 3 SPC students in acrylic painting & the basics of creating a mural.
- Painted mural approximately 24'x9' using acrylic brush while overseeing the completion of the project.

This was organized in collaboration with SPC Faculty members Wendy Roberson & Emily Hoisington with funds from the Cultural STAR grant.

Chroma Zone Mural & Art Festival, Artist, 2021

- Created an unique design centering Oceti Sakowin (Dakota/Lakota/Nakota) language & Culture.
- Painted a solo large-scale mural approximately 80'x18' using spray paint.
- Participated in artist talks following the creation of the project.

Organizations involved in this project were Creative Enterprise Zone & Forecast Public Art.

The Family Partnership Mural Project, Artist, 2021

- Facilitated 2 community engagement sessions with fellow City Mischief artists, staff, clients & neighbors at TFPs new location within the Powderhorn neighborhood in Minneapolis.
- Created three designs using feedback from the community engagement sessions for The Family Partnership to choose from.
- Painted mural approximately 54'x16' using spray paint in collaboration with City Mischief Murals.

American Portrait PBS Murals, Artist, 2021

- Created a digital illustration for two billboard locations in Minneapolis, drawing from my own personal experiences using the quote submitted to American Portrait by New York activist Zakiyah Ansari, “Now is the time to heal and bring joy”.
- Participated in creating a video sharing the meaning behind design for the American Portrait project.

This project was put together by Radical Media & PBS.

Media

Instagram @tomierae
Linktr.ee/Thomasinatopbear
fewandfarwomen.com

Skills

- Over 20 years experience working with aerosol paint & paint sprayers
- Knowledge of polytab mural technique
- Event & Mural organizer
- Art facilitator/Teaching Artist
- Fundraising
- Grant writing
- Digital illustration
- Time & group management

References

MaryAnne Quiroz, Co-founder of Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center
info@indigenous-roots.org

Joy Spika
Co-founder of City Mischief Murals collective
joyspika@gmail.com

Aki Shibata
Forecast/MCAD/Victoria Theater Arts Center
aki.shibata@gmail.com

Art Facilitation

The Phipps Summer Arts Camp, Teaching Artist, 2021-2022

Teaching youth ages 12-17 the safe practices and new techniques using spray paint to create a mural.

5-10 on Hennepin, Teaching Artist, 2021

This program was organized by Kulture Klub Collaborative & Hennepin Theater Trust teaching art & the basic steps of creating a mural to youth between the ages of 16-24.

Artist Panels & Discussions

Minneapolis College of Art and Design, 2021

Visiting Artist Series: Twin Cities Muralist Teaching Artists

Moderated by Fine Arts Professor Aki Shibata

Minneapolis Institute of Art, 2021

Breaking the Silence: International Women's Day artist talk

North Hennepin Community College 2021

Stages of Equity, "Diversifying Stories, Transforming Art"

Ask Me Anything Panel

Forecast Public Art & Chroma Zone, 2021

Decolonize good Public Spaces- Celebrating Indigenous Women/Non-binary voices artist discussion

Published Illustrations

2013 Keya Zuya Ya, written by Ella Deloria, Anpao Duta Press

2013 Sigsicedanka, written by David Grey Cloud, Anpao Duta Press

2022 Prairie Bones, written by Robert Bordeaux, Wiyounkihipi Productions

Grants & Awards

2020 Knight Foundation, Project Grant for Frogtown Mural Project

2020 Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, Art in This Present Moment

2021 Forecast Public Art, Mid-Career Project Grant

2021 Heart Of The Beast, Possibility Project Grant

2021 Mni Sota Fund, Ozhigin Fellowship

2022 MN State Arts Board, Creative Support for Individuals



East Harriet Farmstead
Neighborhood
Association

4101 Harriet Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55409
612.430.9161
info@eastharriet.org
www.eastharriet.org

Christina Schmitt
Senior Communications Specialist
Hennepin County Environment and Energy
Mobile: 612-987-1741
christina.schmitt@hennepin.us

Dear Ms. Schmitt,

June 15, 2021

The East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association writes in to express our support for the creation of a stormdrain mural in our neighborhood over the course of the next year. We understand that this project will be led by neighborhood resident Helen Schnoes as part of her capstone project to become a Minnesota Water Steward.

Environmental education, community engagement, and partnerships are priorities of our neighborhood. We recently reorganized our neighborhood committees, and the mural will be a great early initiative of our new Green Spaces and Places Committee. That committee is developing a proposal also for our review at a future meeting to provide additional funding to the stormdrain outreach efforts, including encouraging adoption of more stormdrains and organizing community members to execute stenciling. Lane Christianson at the City of Minneapolis is a helpful resource as the committee leads these activities. We are pleased by the emerging opportunity to foster connections with Barton Elementary.

We will track the progress of this initiative through the following:

- Monthly updates from the Green Spaces and Places Committee Chair
- Outreach support through our EHFNA e-newsletter, website, and social media
- Consideration of future funding requests from the Green Spaces and Places Committee to further extend the seed funding Hennepin County has invested in the capstone project
- Support of the mural initiative during the Public Art approval and permit process in winter of 2021 and spring 2022, including providing liability insurance for the community painting day

We look forward to inviting you to the mural celebration next spring. Thank you for your support of community-based and community-led environmental initiatives!

Maggie Zawasky
EHFNA Board President

Lane Christianson DTM

Adopt-a-Drain & Storm Drain Stenciling Programs Manager, City of Minneapolis

mobile: 612-280-1956

Lane.Christianson@minneapolismn.gov

Christina Schmitt

Senior Communications Specialist, Hennepin County Environment and Energy

mobile: 612-987-1741

christina.schmitt@hennepin.us

June 23, 2021

Dear Ms. Schmitt,

I write with enthusiasm to express my support for the storm drain mural project led by Helen Schnoes as part of her Minnesota Water Steward capstone project. I manage the Adopt-a-Drain and Storm Drain Stenciling programs at the City of Minneapolis. Helen reached out to me this past April, and we have connected over the phone and via email to learn more about her project ideas. I shared policies and resources, including connecting her to the City Public Art's Coordinator, with whom Helen spoke to understand about the permitting and application process.

I attended the May meeting of the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association's Green Spaces and Places Committee to share about the programs I manage and offer my support to their interest in pursuing education and outreach about storm drains this year. The City of Minneapolis has not yet had a storm drain mural project, but I am excited that this group has the energy to commit to supporting Helen's capstone. I have also shared baseline data about storm drain adoption in their neighborhood to help set goals.

The extended timeline Helen has presented makes sense to me. I'm a big believer in the importance of the engagement and educational aspects of activities like a storm drain mural. The partnership that Helen's building with Barton Elementary is also wonderful, and she's shared contact information with me to follow-up about my own related programming for educators. I will continue to help as the project progresses to ensure a successful community painting day in spring 2022.

Thank you to the support of Hennepin County for helping train residents like Helen to be Minnesota Water Stewards and fund great projects like this one.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lane Christianson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lane" and last name "Christianson" clearly legible.

Lane Christianson, Minneapolis Public Works

East Harriet Storm Drain Mural Budget		
<i>Funding Sources</i>		
Helen's Minnesota Water Steward Funding (Hennepin Co)	\$ 1,296.88	
East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association	\$ 3,500.00	
<i>Project Summary</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Funding Source</i>
Stormdrain Mural		
Paint + materials	\$ 600.00	Hennepin County (Helen's Capstone Funding)
Permit from City	\$ 50.00	EHFNA
Artist stipend	\$ 1,500.00	EHFNA
Maintenance Fund	\$ 500.00	EHFNA
Liability Insurance	In-kind	EHFNA
Misc installation needs	\$ 250.00	Hennepin County (Helen's Capstone Funding)
Community Celebration		
Food for volunteers	\$ 250.00	Hennepin County (Helen's Capstone Funding)
Native plant / seed giveaways	\$ 200.00	Hennepin County (Helen's Capstone Funding)
Youth engagement partner stipend	\$ 300.00	EHFNA
Community engagement materials (Youth activity, posterboards, markers, etc)	\$ 350.00	EHFNA
Door hanger printings (City of Mpls design)	\$ 300.00	EHFNA
Chair / table rentals for celebration & decoration/activity supplies	\$ 500.00	EHFNA
Total budget	\$ 4,800.00	

WAIVER OF RIGHTS PURSUANT TO THE VISUAL ARTISTS RIGHTS ACT

Thomasina TopBear
I, _____, have prepared designs for the following art work:

(specifically identify the work)

The above-described work may be considered to be a "work of visual art" subject to the provisions of the federal Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990, specifically the rights of certain authors to attribution and integrity, as codified at 17 U.S.C. §106A(a). I am an author of the work(s) described herein, and am authorized to waive the rights conferred by §106A(a), in accordance with the waiver provision of 17 U.S.C. §106A(e)(1).

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

17 U.S.C. §106A - Rights of certain authors to attribution and integrity.

(a) Rights of Attribution and Integrity. -

Subject to section 107 and independent of the exclusive rights provided in section 106, the author of a work of visual art -

(1) shall have the right -

(A) to claim authorship of that work, and

(B) to prevent the use of his or her name as the author of any work of visual art which he or she did not create;

(2) shall have the right to prevent the use of his or her name as the author of the work of visual art in the event of a distortion, mutilation, or other modification of the work which would be prejudicial to his or her honor or reputation; and

(3) subject to the limitations set forth in section 113(d), shall have the right -

(A) to prevent any intentional distortion, mutilation, or other modification of that work which would be prejudicial to his or her honor or reputation, and any intentional distortion, mutilation, or modification of that work is a violation of that right, and

(B) to prevent any destruction of a work of recognized stature, and any intentional or grossly negligent destruction of that work is a violation of that right.

17 U.S.C. §106A(e)(1) - Transfer and waiver.

The rights conferred by subsection (a) may not be transferred, but those rights may be waived if the author expressly agrees to such waiver in a written instrument signed by the author. Such instrument shall specifically identify the work, and uses of that work, to which the waiver applies, and the waiver shall apply only to the work and uses so identified. In the case of a joint work prepared by two or more authors, a waiver of rights under this paragraph made by one such author waives such rights for all such authors.

WAIVER

As author of the above-described work, I hereby permanently waive my rights pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §106A(a)(3) to prevent any distortion, mutilation, modification or destruction of that work, for whatever reason and for whatever use of the work such distortion, mutilation, modification or destruction of the work is undertaken. This waiver does not extend to the rights of attribution conferred by 17.U.S.C. §106A(a)(1) or §106A(a)(2).

Date 05/03/2022

Thomasina TopBear

Artist 

East Harriet Storm Drain Mural Public Art Permit Addendum

May 25, 2022 | Helen Schnoes | helenaschnoes@gmail.com

- What are the dimensions of this piece?
 - Could you provide dimensions at the bottom of the design or just information on how big or small it would be
 - They had some concerns that it could be just really small...

The artwork is designed to be 5' x 10'.

- Placement – Will it be mostly in the concrete gutter on the black asphalt?
 - A Context photo with what it would look like in the street would be most useful for them to understand
 - They also had some concerns about placement and effecting the need for maintenance.

The mural will be placed on the SW corner of the intersection, as pictured below. Previously the project team had hoped to keep some options as to which storm drain would be selected at the approved intersection, as the initial approval from public works allowed for that flexibility.

The photos below show two possible locations at this storm drain. In blue, placement fully on the asphalt. This allows for a storm drain stencil, as the panel recommended. In red, placement overlapping the storm drain.









- Then they felt the messaging wasn't super clear that it was about water...so here are some of their suggestion:
 - change the message text
 - add the stencil or something similar to the "this drains to the lake/river" stencils that are around the city.
 - Have the design incorporate the waters path in a more visual way if possible.

We appreciate the thoughtful discussion and recommendations from the panel. The committee has met and decided to not change the design or its message text. We will consider complementing the mural with stenciling (which has been previously done at this location). If this is critical for the panel's approval, we will consider adding a bar and text at the bottom of the mural, as shown in the precedence image below from our artist, Thomasina Topbear.

We are proud of our design. We did a thorough process to lead to this design. A few key points on the design front:

- *As the East Harriet neighborhood, with the iconic Bandshell included on the water's horizon, silhouetted in the sun, in the design; we think that our neighborhood's residents will understand easily the water connection.*

- *It also seems that our design is facing greater scrutiny than other projects that come before the panel seeking Public Art Permits. Would other paint the pavement, trash can, and utility box projects have to be so explicit? We ask the panel to consider this and that our design be evaluated fairly across other projects seeking the same approval.*
- *The stenciling idea is well taken, but we do want to share that a storm drain mural is a different, though related, outreach tactic than stenciling. We have been working closely with Lane Christianson who leads the storm drain stenciling + adoption programs for the City of Minneapolis. We do have other ideas for encouraging stenciling as part of our work on the Green Spaces & Places Committee, but think it's unnecessary to conflate these two strategies for raising awareness. We will keep this recommendation in mind as our project progresses.*
- *We are actively planning for targeted outreach aligned with the community celebration we have planned, and funding already allocated to do so. We are confident the design stands well on its own, but also want to reiterate that it will be promoted with additional outreach that goes into greater detail about our campaign and key messages. We believe these associated efforts will help meet some of the opportunities for clarity lifted up by the panel in their initial review.*

Because storm drain murals are new to the City of Minneapolis, as point of reference we wanted to share some past examples from the state, to help put our design in context. Our artist, Thomasina Tobbear, is versed in this form as part of her deep experience in murals more broadly, including many throughout Minneapolis.

[FMR's fifth water quality mural celebrates community connections to water](#)

PROTECT WHERE WE PLAY



THIS DRAIN LEADS DIRECTLY TO OUR LAKES & RIVERS